

Application Serial No. 10/080,089

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Date October 14, 2004

Reply to Office Action dated May 14, 2004

REMARKS

Entry of this Communication in the above-identified application, the response time to which has been extended by a concurrently filed request for a two-month extension of time and fee, is requested.

In the Office Action dated May 14, 2004, the specification and the drawings are objected to. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 12, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b). Claims 2, 4, 10, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a).

For the reasons set forth herein, it is respectfully submitted that all objections have been overcome and that Applicant's invention defined in the claims includes features which are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references, taken singly or in any permissible combination. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

The disclosure and the drawing are objected to. Accordingly, the specification has been amended to provide proper reference numerals for the elements noted by the Examiner.

The Examiner questions what is actually discontinuous with respect to the "discontinuity 42" in paragraph 47 of the specification. Paragraph 47 defines the aspect of the invention shown in Fig. 5 in which a discontinuity or non-slit or perforated portion is formed in the separable edge 24. It is respectfully submitted that paragraph 47 accurately describes the aspect of the invention shown in Fig. 5.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 12, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Jaffri. The Examiner contends that Jaffri teaches all of the features of Applicant's invention set forth in such claims.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 1 and 17, and the claims depending from claim 1 include features which are not anticipated by Jaffri.

Jaffri '788 shows non-adhesive tabs 15 provided in each adhesive sheet of the tape roll. The tabs are formed at the edges of the tape roll as extensions of each sheet.

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In Applicant's invention, as set forth in claims 1 and 17, the pull tabs are formed of a plurality of spaced, substantially non-adhesive portions carried between the side edges and on one of the first and second surfaces of the substrate. Each non-adhesive portion is formed as a layer on the adhesive layer and is disposed adjacent to the separable edge to define in combination with the separable edge, one pull tab.

In Jaffri, the tabs are separate from the perforations such that the tabs are carried by each adhesive sheet; but do not have the separable edge defining a portion of each pull tab.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 12, and 14-17 includes features which are not anticipated by Jaffri.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaffri in view of McKay '465. The Examiner cited McKay '465 for having a tape roll with a discontinuous slit. The Examiner combines Jaffri and McKay '465 to provide a tape roll having a discontinuous slit.

However, the combination of Jaffri and McKay '465 still lacks the pull tab features described above in claim 1. For the same reasons set forth above with respect to the patentability of claim 1 over Jaffri, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claim 10 includes features which are not suggested or rendered obvious by any permissible combination of Jaffri and McKay '465.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaffri in view of Japan 4-226581. The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to modify Jaffri's separable edge to include planar and non-planar portions on each sheet as taught by Japan 4-226581.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claim 11 patentably defines over any permissible combination of Jaffri and the cited Japan reference since the combination of Jaffri with the Japan reference fails to include all of the features relating to the pull tab described above and defined in claim

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1. For these same reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claim 11 patentably defines over the cited references as combined by the Examiner.

Finally, claims 2, 4, and 13 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaffri in view of Imsandi. The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to modify Jaffri's non-adhesive portion such that a non-adhesive coating is formed on one of the first and second major surfaces of the tape wherein the thin sheet is adhesively fixed to the adhesive layer on the tape as suggested by Imsandi to reduce the overall thickness of the roller and ensuring a minimal cumulative thickness.

Imsandi discloses a tacky floor mat having a stack of peelable sheets, each with a layer of adhesive on an upper surface. A thin coating of a non-adhesive material is deposited on the adhesive layer in two aligned corners of the upper surface of each sheet to improve the peeling of the uppermost sheet from the stack.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness to support a rejection of Applicant's invention set forth in claims 2, 4, and 13 based on a combination of Jaffri and Imsandi. The combination of Jaffri and Imsandi fails to disclose a non-adhesive portion in the form of a layer on the adhesive layer defining a pull tab in combination with a separable edge. Jaffri and Imsandi are also devoid of any teaching or suggestion of having a portion of the separable edge defining the pull tab. In Imsandi, the non-adhesive coating is applied to the corner edge of each sheet. In Jaffri, the tab extends from one edge of the edge defining each sheet in the tape roll.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 2, 3, and 13 patentably defines over the cited references as combined by the Examiner.

In summary, for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 10-17 includes features

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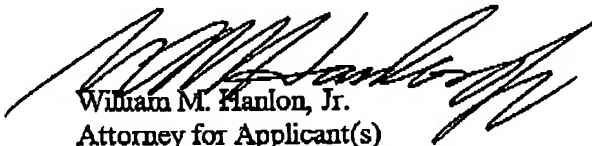
which are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references, taken singly or in any permissible combination.

Re-entry of withdrawn claims 6 and 9 is submitted to be warranted as claims 6 and 9 depend from an allowable generic claim.

Thus, it is submitted that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance; a notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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